

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SY-10 AID-20 NEA-10 USSS-00

DRC-01 /172 W

----- 103555

R 122129Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6514

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5542

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: TWO MYSTERIOUS "KIDNAPPINGS"

LIMA FOR RSO

REF: SANTIAGO 5419

1. SUMMARY. KIDNAPPING IN SANTIAGO OF FORMER BOLIVIAN OFFICIAL WHO APPEARED FINALLY IN ARGENTINA, AND OF CHILEAN EXECUTIVE WHO HELD ONLY ONE DAY AND RELEASED, HAS STIMULATED MUCH SPECULATION BUT LITTLE CONCRETE INFORMATION. CONSIDERABLE DOUBT EXISTS THAT THESE ARE ACTIONS OF CHILEAN LEFTIST EXTREMISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL REPORTED KIDNAPPING OCT 29 OF FORMER BOLIVIAN MIN INTERIOR JORGE GALLARDO LOSADA FROM HOME IN SANTIAGO, WHERE HE HAS RESIDED SINCE 1971 AS EXILE FROM BOLIVIA. WITNESSES SAW FOUR MEN, TWO IN MILITARY UNIFORM, TAKE GALLARDO. GOC STRONGLY DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT. SPECULATION CONTINUED UNTIL GOVT OF BOLIVIA REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED NOV 9 THAT GALLARDO HAD

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"ENTERED" BOLIVIA OCT 29, SAME DAY AS KIDNAPPING, AND AFTER

MAKING STATEMENTS ON BOLIVIAN POLITICAL MATTERS TO GOB HAD BEEN SHIPPED OFF UNDER SAFECONDUCT TO ARGENTINA. GALLARDO IS NOW REPORTEDLY ABOUT TO RETURN ONCE AGAIN TO CHILE.

3. PRINCIPAL SUSPECT IN GALLARDO KIDNAPING IS BOLIVIAN CONGEN IN SANTIAGO, CARLOS CASTEDO VELASCO, WHO HAS VANISHED. CASTEDO ALLEGEDLY SEEN NEAR GALLARDO HOME NEAR TIME OF KIDNAPPING. ATTORNEY FOR GALLARDO FAMILY STATED CASTEDO ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ESCAPE (FROM ALLENDE GOVT) IN 1972 OF RIGHT EXTREMIST ARTURO MARSHALL, RETIRED CHILEAN ARMY MAJOR, WHO TAKEN TO BOLIVIA IN SAME MANNER. ASSUMPTION IN SANTIAGO PRESS IS KIDNAPPING WORK OF BOLIVIANS, INVOLVING BOLIVIAN POLITICS. DANGERS AND DIFFICULTIES OF MOVEMENT IN SANTIAGO DURING CURFEW, AND APPARENT FACT GALLARDO MOVED FROM SANTIAGO TO BOLIVIA IN FEW HOURS ON OCT 29 AT TIME WHEN ALL AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS IN CHILE CLOSELY CONTROLLED, HAVE RAISED INEVITABLE SUSPICIONS OF GOC INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATION OR AT LEAST TOLERANCE. HOWEVER, GOC REPORTED PRESSING INVESTIGATION AND SEARCHING FOR MISSING CASTEDO.

4. SECOND UNEXPLAINED KIDNAPPING INVOLVED JAIME DONOSO ROJAS, EXECUTIVE OF CORFU, NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT OR WELL-KNOWN FIGURE. PRESS AND GOC-NEWS BROADCASTS STATE DONOSO TAKEN BY FOUR ARMED MEN, TWO IN MILITARY UNIFORM, ON MORNING NOV 9 WHILE DELIVERING DAUGHTER TO SCHOOL. DONOSO APPEARED IN OWN CAR, REPORTEDLY HAVING BEEN BEATEN AND SUFFERING SHOCK, IN SAME GENERAL AREA SANTIAGO EARLY MORNING HOURS NOV 10. DONOSO HAS NOT SPOKEN TO PRESS, AND FAMILY STATEMENTS IMPLY INCIDENT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING AT ALL. AGAIN, GOC IS INVESTIGATING, HAVING DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT.

5. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION YET ON EITHER CASE, BUT CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST THIS IS NOT RPT NOT BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN OF URBAN TERRORISM BY FORMER UP SUPPORTERS. THOMPSON

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